NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
Quarterly Report

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The First Hundred Years....

In 1850 President Zachary Taylor died and was succeeded by Millard Fillmore. California, newly populous because of the hordes who had hoped to strike it rich in gold, was admitted to the Union. The Secretary of State managed to work out with the British what is known as the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Henry Clay worked out the compromises that staved off internal conflict for another decade.

History on a national political scale treats great events. Each year of decision, however, is filled with small unmarked events. Few people in 1850 would have noticed that the sovereign State of New York had acquired an historic property, the old Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, which served as Washington's Headquarters in 1782-3. But this was the first property, to the best of our present knowledge, that was ever acquired so that it might be preserved for the public benefit. It was a small event, but like many small events it marks the beginning of an ever-broadening trail.

Today, 100 years later, a National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, is being activated. The distinguished Trustees, whose election was recently announced, will meet in Washington on the first of May. That is a peculiarly happy choice for a first meeting of an organization, one of whose roles will be the stressing of the American theme. Perhaps it could be considered a direct answer to those who see in May Day an opportunity to celebrate the non-American way of life.

Preservation has come a long way since 1850. Today it is gaining recognition as a science and an art. It is preparing itself for taking a larger part on the American stage. It has its own disciplines and branches; there are men and women who have become specialists in preservation. It is being integrated and is serving to bring to the attention of the American people the brilliant parade of the passing years. When the integration is completed, all Americans will have testimonials at hand, wherever they are, to make them proud of their way of life.

This is no small challenge. But it is a challenge that can be met during the next 100 years. The National Trust and the National Council, working together on a joint preservation program, represent the culmination of 100 years of work in the field of preservation in this country. The members of the National Council, banded together as individuals and through the organizations that have blazed the trail in the preceding century, have already realized the first of their great objectives, the establishment of the National Trust. The horizon is limitless if all those who believe in the cause will give their fullest cooperation. The success of the movement can be truly meaningful in these perilous times; it can help to prevent what Brooks Adams once called "the degradation of the democratic dogma."

The National Trust. The announcement of the election of Trustees has elicited favorable publicity, comment, and editorials in many parts of the United States. The composition of the Board that will guide the destinies of the companion-organization of the National Council is such that confidence should be inspired in the entire preservation program. It is reasonable to suppose that the joint program of the National Trust and the National Council will become increasingly more effective as the National Trust surveys its own responsibilities and determines the directions of its policies. But the mere meeting of the Trustees on May 1 is not ipso facto going to mean immediate effective operation of the National Trust as a custodian and operator of historic and cultural properties.

It has been pointed out before, and it is being reiterated and emphasized in all new literature, that the National Trust and the National Council are for all practical purposes one organization. The National Council, which has been growing steadily, is the membership organization, while the National Trust was authorized by the Congress and President of the United States to hold and administer properties accepted by the Trustees. For the present time at least, the two organizations will share the same staff; the joint program will be jointly administered.

When the Bylaws for the National Trust have been adopted and when the Trustees have had an opportunity to express themselves, there will indubitably be more to add. This is a chapter that is just beginning.

> South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland are cooperating in a progressive tour that will allow visitors to see more than 300 houses and gardens this spring. From March 20 through April 15 the Historic Charleston Foundation sponsors its open house. Historic Garden Week, held under the auspices of the Garden Club of Virginia, extends from April 22 to 29. The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage has scheduled 15 tours in 11 counties from April 28 through May 9.

Headquarters Activities. The staff has been preparing for the move that soon will be made to the Octagon House. If present plans are carried out, the new address for both the National Council and the National Trust will be The Octagon House, Washington 6, D. C., after May 15. The American Institute of Architects is making available rooms on the second floor in the refurbished house. We have been singularly fortunate in having had the use of our present quarters in the Ford Theatre, through the courtesy of the National Park Service and the National Capital Parks. But now we are ready to leave, ready to start the new chapter in a new home.

The winter months have been busy ones. Out of a welter of activities only a few can be singled out for mention, other than those that get special attention on other pages of the Report. Membership continues to grow, surely a sign that the good word is spreading. It is a particularly happy thing that more and more organizations are discovering that they want to have a part in the program of the National Council. Today we are 55. Those organizations which have joined since our last Report and which we welcome officially now include:

Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial (Virginia)
Cocumscussoc Association (Wickford, Rhode Island)
Colonial Leesburg, Inc. (Virginia)
Friends of Old Dover (Delaware)
Fruitlands and the Wayside Museums, Inc. (Harvard, Massachusetts)
Germantown Historical Society (Pennsylvania)
St. Croix Landmarks League (Virgin Islands)

Southwestern Monuments Association
Woodlawn Public Foundation, Inc. (Virginia)

Executive Secretary Rath represented the Trust and the Council at the Colonial House and Garden Symposium in Williamsburg in early March. His talk was entitled, "Private Restorations and the New National Trust." A score of members who were asked for aid in handling the topic cheerfully responded, making possible a much more intelligent handling of the topic.

An appeal to member organizations for photographic material brought generally good results. A file has been started and we are in a better position to supply publicists. Especially noteworthy in this connection is the cooperation of the Library of Congress, which, through the kindness of Dr. Luther Evans, is making available to us many extremely valuable photographs at no charge.

It is obviously impossible to cover in any detail the daily work of the Headquarters staff. But a mention of a few of the causes that have been embraced should show the direction of activity. In response to a request from help from the Hudson River Valley, the National Council asked National Park Service Superintendent George A. Palmer if he would take a look at a near-by architectural and engineering problem. Mr. Palmer solved the difficulty and submitted a brief report that can serve as a model for all such cases. We hope that we may call upon our membership at any time for similar help.

Occasionally a preservation matter is called to our attention by a member and we help in any way we can. A house in Wisconsin that is worthy of State preservation was doomed to go. We are told that the letter General Grant wrote to the Governor of Wisconsin helped considerably. No final word yet, but the chances for action are good.

The Executive Secretary spent 24 hours in Philadelphia recently at the request of a member organization. Sometimes problems cannot be handled entirely by mail. Whenever possible, Mr. Rath will confer with those who need help on a specific problem. A body of reference and knowledge is being built up now that enables us sometimes to make valuable suggestions.

> Atomic science may join dendrochronology as a method to establish ancient dates. Measuring by Geiger counter the radio-activity of a substance, Carbon 14, of carbon dioxide, present in all plant and animal life, has already been used. If this leads any antiquarian or historian to believe that he will now be able to date an unknown object or house, he should be warned that the method is accurate only within 500 years. Archeological and geological journals please copy!

Proposed Preservations

Santa Barbara, California. The twin towers of Santa Barbara Mission, rebuilt less than 25 years ago following an earthquake in that region, will have to be torn down and rebuilt. It has been discovered that chemical deterioration of concrete has so weakened the towers that they are in danger of collapsing. Part of the estimated cost of reconstruction has already been given to the project through the Archbishop of Los Angeles.

Pleasantville, New York. The pre-Revolutionary home of Dr. Isaac Graham will be preserved as an historic shrine in the proposed development of a shopping and apartment house project in the Graham Hills section of Pleasantville. Dr. Graham was the personal physician of George Washington.

Utica, New York. The campaign to have the State transform the Oriskany Battlefield into a state park has been strengthened by the introduction of a bill in the State Legislature. The bill authorizes the State Education Department to survey the cost of such a project. The proposed park will embrace a total of 128 acres. One of the important battles of the Revolutionary War occurred in this region when General Nicholas Herkimer's men drove the British back into Canada and saved the Mohawk Valley.

Columbia Falls, Maine. The descendants of Thomas Ruggles, one of Maine's earliest Judges, have engaged an architect to do research on the Thomas Ruggles house. The house is decorated with hand carving, inlaid mahogany, and contains one of the few flying staircases in Maine.

Cove Neck, Long Island. The Roosevelt Memorial Association has announced the completion of negotiations for the acquisition of Sagamore Hill, President Theodore Roosevelt's home. The house, 83 acres of land, and trophies and furniture make up the sale. The Association estimates that it will cost from $500,000 to $750,000 to restore and prepare the property as a historic site. It will be over a year before it can be opened to the public. A road to skirt the Village of Cove Neck has been planned and will be constructed if zoning sanction can be obtained.

Ripley, West Virginia. A plan to reconstruct an early pioneer home is being formulated by a group of interested citizens. Two cabins, connected by a breezeway would be built, one section to be used as a museum and the other as a meeting place for various community organizations.

Sullivan's Island Township, South Carolina. A down payment on a deed whereby the Federal government conveys to this community historic Fort Moultrie has just been made. This fort, under siege by the British in the Revolutionary War and garrisoned by Federal troops just before their transfer to Fort Sumter at the beginning of the Civil War, was declared surplus property by the Department of Defense.

Herkimer, New York. The campaign conducted by the Fairfield Alumni and Historical Society to restore the 147-year-old chapel of the Fairfield Seminary has passed the one third mark. Mrs. Reba C. Helligas, Treasurer of the campaign, states that the work has begun but will not be completed unless further funds from alumni and friends are received.

Mystic, Connecticut. The historic ferryboat Brinckerhoff may achieve a permanent berth at Mystic, Connecticut, it has been announced by the Steamship Historical Society of America. The Society hopes to find ways and means to sail or tow the craft from Kingston, New York to Mystic. Charles A. Brooks, business manager of the Marine Historical Association, owners of the craft, stated that a drive to secure $1,500, the estimated cost of moving the Brinckerhoff, had been launched. Those who would like to help to save the Brinckerhoff should make checks payable to the Marine Historical Association but marked "Brinckerhoff Fund."

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Governor Okey Patterson pledged his support to this preservation project at a recent public meeting. A national monument has been authorized here, but funds must still be raised to buy the land to present to the Federal Government.

Washington, D. C. Bills have been introduced into both houses of Congress to authorize the purchase of the "Old Stone House" at 3051 - M Street, N.W., in Georgetown. Speedy action must be taken, for there is a threat of immediate destruction. If the Congress acts, the House will become part of the National Capital Parks.

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities has dedicated a permanent memorial to its founder, William Sumner Appleton. It takes the form of an auditorium and exhibition gallery in its headquarters, the first Harrison Gray Otis House, in Boston.

Preservations in Progress

Meadville, Pennsylvania. The American Red Cross has purchased the Shippen House as a permanent home. This house, built by H. H. Shippen in 1828-29, is one of the city's oldest homes.

Lynn, Massachusetts. Many cast and wrought-iron products have been unearthed by archeologists working at the site of the Saugus Iron Works. The shipping wharf and the foundations of a bloomery and forge have been discovered. This work is being carried on by the reconstruction committee of the First Iron Works Association and the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Towson, Maryland. Hampton, the Dulaney Valley home of the Ridgelies, will be opened as a national historical site on April 30. The Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, a member organization of the National Council, will operate the site, which is owned by the Federal Government. The architecture of the house has been restored, as far as possible, to 1790 and the furniture does not go past the 1828 period. The garden has also, as far as possible, been restored to the 1790 period.

Detroit, Michigan. The Detroit Historical Society has rehabilitated some of Fort Wayne's tunnels and will install exhibits there as soon as possible.

San Rafael, California. Part of the Mission San Rafael Arcangel, which was torn down in 1861, has been reconstructed through the generosity of the Hearst Foundation. The Marin County Historical Society was in charge of the restoration.

Georgetown, Connecticut. One of the oldest Methodist Churches in Connecticut is being restored by the volunteer work of the descendants of the original settlers of Georgetown.

Kearney County, Nebraska. Civic-minded citizens of this county have restored an old school building that is now being used as a historical museum for a collection of old newspapers, books and relics.

Peekskill, New York. The law office where Chauncey Depew studied has been restored and is part of the newly-established Bohlmann-Stevens Park. The building, law office of William Nelson, early New York Supreme Court Justice, was bought and restored by Mr. Chester Smith.

Alexandria, Virginia. Woodlawn Public Foundation, Inc., announces the loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art of a complete eighteenth century living-room set, as well as many pieces for other rooms. Other recent gifts are: a rare pastel of Nellie Custis rendered by James Sharples, the Nellie Custis bed, and 12 Duncan Phyfe chairs. The Foundation launched a drive early in February to raise $82,000 with which to reduce the debt incurred when the estate was purchased in 1949. General Grant presided at the opening dinner and Council member Douglas Southall Freeman gave the principal address.

Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania. The 117-year-old Wapwallopen Church is being restored by the County Historical Society. The grounds have been cleared and the interior has been thoroughly cleaned and repairs made.

Washington, D. C. Work on the restoration of the White House is progressing a month ahead of schedule and it is now estimated that it will be ready for occupancy in October, 1951. The interior is now stripped down to its bare walls and temporary supports are being installed. When that work is completed all the interior walls will be taken down and replaced by modern partitions which will carry conduits for air-conditioning, central heating, and electric wiring. The new walls will follow the lines of the old ones on the first and second floors, so that the rooms will be just as they were.

San Juan Bautista, California. Work on the historic Mission of San Juan Bautista was started in February. The Hearst Foundation has contributed funds for the restoration and proceeds of the annual local Fiesta-Rodeo have been turned over to the restoration program. Tentative plans call for the restoration of the original three entrances and an exact reproduction of the original bell tower to be built.

Alexandria, Virginia. Brig. Gen. R. Latane Montague, USMC (ret.), has been named the Superintendent of Gunston Hall, George Mason's home, by the Board of Regents of the Colonial Dames of America. At the present time research is being conducted to determine the original paint that covered the woodwork and what furnishings were in the house during Mason's lifetime. Excavations have disclosed the foundations of two buildings, probably a kitchen and school, that once stood in front of the mansion. Gunston Hall is open each day of the week from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

New York City, New York. Transfer of Fort Clinton to the Federal Government for restoration as a national monument has been approved by the Board of Estimate of New York City. The Board voted to convey the land and building to the National Park Service. An appropriation of $165,750 by Congress for the restoration of the fort was made last year. As soon as the Mayor approves the transfer, rehabilitation will begin.

Forest Grove, Oregon. The oldest school building in Oregon, on the Campus of Pacific College, has been opened as a historical museum. The museum is open to the public for inspection, study and as a meeting hall.

Colorado. The State Historical Society continues work on the state historic sites at Fort Garland and Healy House Museum, Leadville. An early building, the Dexter Cabin, is being moved to the Healy house grounds and is being furnished.

Brandenton, Florida. DeSoto National Monument was dedicated on March 21.

Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Board of Governors of Plymouth Plantation, Inc., has decided to survey and re-assess the purposes of the corporation in light of recent experience. Originally intending to reconstruct a part of the Pilgrim village outside of the town, they are laying aside this plan during 1950. They will consider how best to meet the objective stated in their Bylaws: "the historical education of the public with respect to the struggles of the early Settlers of Town of Plymouth; the expansion of that settlement and the influence of the Pilgrim Fathers throughout the world...."

The Yosemite National Park, Calif., has announced that the 1950 session of the Yosemite Field School, A Workshop in Interpretive Methods, will begin on June 28 and continue for seven weeks. The school affords training in presenting history and natural history to the general public, and work in museum methods and administration. Limited to 20 students, it is open to

college graduates, or to those who show accomplishments equivalent to a college degree. A doctor's statement as to physical fitness for arduous exercise at altitudes ranging to over 13,000 feet is required. The average cost per person is $170.00. An information booklet is available from the park. Carl P. Russell is superintendent; Donald Edward McHenry, director of the school; and Allen W. Walto, assistant director in charge of instruction.

Active Preservations

Vincennes, Indiana. An extensive program of restoration at the William Henry Harrison mansion has been under way for a year and a half and will be completed by July 1950, in time for the Sesquicentennial anniversary of Indiana Territory. The Harrison mansion, built in 1803-04, has been restored by generous gifts from the D.A.R., the Harrison family, and individuals interested in the project.

Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Betty Washington Room at Kenmore, home of the sister of George Washington, was recently dedicated. The dedication inaugurated a series of special events to celebrate the 200th wedding anniversary of Betty Washington to Colonel Fielding Lewis. The bedroom of Betty Washington Lewis, endowed by the Virginia Society, D.A.R., is furnished with Mrs. Lewis's trunk, Chippendale desk and four-poster mahogany bed.

Clinton, New York. The interior of the 122-year-old chapel at Hamilton College has just been restored to conform with the post-colonial exterior. It is one of the few remaining three story churches of its period.

Williamsburg, Virginia. During the coming year four original groups of buildings in Capitol Square will be reconstructed. This is a part of the 10-year program to complete the physical restoration of 18th century Williamsburg. Three houses and a tavern will be reconstructed starting in the spring and early summer. Work now in progress on the restoration of two other houses and a shop will be completed this year.

Flushing, Long Island. The 17th century home of John Bowne, Quaker convert and one of the earliest advocated of freedom of worship, has just been reopened to the public after extensive repairs and restoration. The original hand-hewn beams in the dining room ceiling are now visible. New curtains, gift of a Manhattan designer, hang at all the windows. Several family Bibles, dress materials, silver, and other memorabilia have been given to the Bowne House Historical Society, the organization that operates the house, by descendants of John Bowne.

Appomattox, Virginia. The McLean House, where Lee surrendered to Grant, has been restored by the National Park Service and will be dedicated on April 16. Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman will speak at the dedication. Gen. U. S. Grant, 3rd, President of the National Council, will re-enact the surrender ceremony with Robert E. Lee, 4th. Negotiations are in progress to see if the chairs that Generals Lee and Grant used and the table on which the terms of surrender were signed can be borrowed from the Smithsonian Institution. The State has appropriated $5,000 for furnishings, and other similar offerings are being made.

Dearborn, Michigan. The Old Arsenal, one of the three surviving buildings of the Army Post established at Dearborn in 1833, has been restored by the Historical Commission and will be opened as a museum in the fall.

The Historic Charleston Foundation has a fine new booklet entitled "Charleston's Historic Houses." It has 14 pages of advertisements, including an "Advertising Directory," which should offer food for thought for those who are confronted with the problem of small budgets and publications needs. The Germantown Historical Society, a recent new member of the National Council, also makes a profit on its quarterly magazine, "Germantowne Crier." This fine journal has a business manager who is paid for his work and who obtains the advertising that underwrites the production.

Foreign Preservation

Sussex, England. Lamb House, Rye Sussex, the English home of Henry James, will soon become a property of the British National Trust. Plans have been announced for making the American author's study into a memorial room when the house is opened to the public. Britain's National Trust now owns more than 1,000 properties.

Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Government of Nova Scotia has recently acquired the Mount, a 137-year-old colonial-type mansion, with its surrounding 2,500 acres. It was built by Richard Uniacke, an attorney general for Nova Scotia from 1797 to 1830.

Durham, England. A writer to the New York Herald-Tribune has urged the formation of a Committee to investigate the possible preservation of the Washington ancestral home in Wales. William Washington, the first known person to bear that name, built a manor house near Durham where for 200 years the Washington family lived.

The carriage house and stables of the famous old Decatur House in Washington, D. C., have been converted to a museum. The Truxton-Decatur Naval Museum was made possible by the privately sponsored Naval Historical Foundation. The museum, which will be open this spring, will change its exhibits three or four times a year. Its collection covers naval, merchant marine, Coast Guard, and even yachting records.

The Passing Parade.

Elliottsville, Pennsylvania: OLD IRON FURNACE DISCOVERED CRUMBLING APART.

Jamaica, New York: TURN-OF-CENTURY SHOWPLACE TO BE RAZED FOR LUXURY APARTMENT BUILDING.

Shambaugh, Iowa: OLD MILL RAZED FOR LUMBER.

Byberry, Pennsylvania: NEGLECTED 200-YEAR-OLD FARMHOUSE, REPUTED TO BE DR. BENJAMIN RUSH'S BIRTHPLACE, DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Buffalo, New York: WRECKERS START TO DEMOLISH F. L. WRIGHT MASTERPIECE.

Wheeling, West Virginia: OLD FERRY HOUSE ORDERED RAZED BY STATE FIRE MARSHALS.

Ramapo, New York: MAIN BUILDING OF IRON FOUNDRY OPENED IN 1798 DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Washington, D. C.: OLD WASHINGTON MANSION RAZED FOR PARKING LOT.

Parkersburg, Pennsylvania: TOWN'S SECOND OLDEST BUILDING SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

New York City, New York: HISTORIC MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING DEMOLISHED.

Irasburg, Vermont: HISTORIC VERMONT MILL BURNS.

Glens Falls, New York: 78-YEAR-OLD HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Marquette, Michigan: LANDMARK BEING RAZED FOR NEW BUILDING.

New York City, New York: MURRAY HILL MANSIONS YIELD TO PROGRESS.

Manistee, Michigan: COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MICHIGAN LANDMARK, LEVELED BY WIND-WHIPPED BLAZE.

> Buried in the list of historic sites that have passed into limbo is a reference to Frank Lloyd Wright's Larkin Building in Buffalo. Here is what "The Architects' Journal," a British publication, had to say about the passing of this building: "It is remarkable to think that the nation which can find the millions required to restore Colonial Williamsburg cannot find the $5,000 (if the Forum figures are accurate) necessary to preserve so significant a landmark."

A New Preservation Commission in New Hampshire. As a direct result of the declaring of a surplus property, that State now has a Commission for the Preservation of Early New Hampshire Historical Sites. It has come about because a group of citizens became interested in the ultimate disposition of Fort Constitution, in Portsmouth Harbor. State Senator Harry E. Sherwin turned to the National Council for assistance in determining what could be done in order to obtain this property, which was being abandoned by the military services. The problem was complicated by the fact that the old War Assets Administration has been superseded by General Services Administration. National Council Headquarters worked with Senator Styles Bridges' office to unravel the tape. Chances now look pretty good that Fort Constitution will be preserved by the State.

To help process the claim, Governor Sherman Adams appointed a Commission of five and named as its head, Alvin F. Redden of Portsmouth, executive secretary of the New Hampshire Seacoast Regional Association. The Commission's powers seem to be broad enough so that it will be able to accomplish much good in the future.

> Fort Ticonderoga in New York State is certainly one of the better known private preservations open to the public. Mr. Stephen H.P. Pell, Council member and longtime preservationist, has been its guiding spirit and director since its founding. He has learned many of the lessons of scientific preservation the hard way. In the last issue of "The Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum," he notes how illogical it is not to plan reconstruction or restoration carefully and with the advice of competent technicians. In years past faulty reconstruction jobs had been done

on the Fort: cement had been mixed too weakly, drainage and waterproofing had been overlooked, and new walls had been erected on insecure old walls. As a result, in less than two years time a series of jobs that could not be postponed had to be undertaken if the Fort were to remain open. Ruefully, the account concludes: "The walls of the Fort are now inspected and secured and in the future when we do a job, it will be with the advice of experienced and competent engineers."

Meetings. The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society will celebrate its 65th birthday on April 14th by dedicating a new building. A day-long program of events is scheduled and features a talk by President James Bryant Conant of Harvard University. The State of Ohio has come a long way in its recognition of the role it wishes to play in preserving for the benefit of the people its most significant cultural treasures. Its Society is one of the most active and progressive in the country. It administers 55 properties and during 1949, there were almost two million visitors to them, a half million more than 1947. Here then is a healthy sign of the times, which serves to show what can be accomplished in the field under good leadership.

The American Planning and Civic Association and the American Institute of Planners are conducting a meeting in Washington, May 12 - 17. It is entitled "National Citizens Conference on Planning for City, State, and Nation." In addition to general sessions on various currently important phases of planning, there will be special conducted tours.

The Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut will meet in Madison on Saturday, June 3. Visits to homes in the vicinity will follow the luncheon.

The 45th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums will be at Colorado Springs, Colo., May 29, 30, and 31. Headquarters will be in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

The largest city in the United States has another good preservation cause to consider, now that Castle Clinton has been saved. Most readers know that the people interested in Washington Square have been fighting a rearguard action during the last several years. Perhaps that is why the announcement in January that the Rhinelander Building on the southwestern corner of Fifth Avenue at the Square was going to be razed for a towering apartment house really aroused the opposition.

Many individual members of the Council have joined with local citizens to stay the execution of the plan. Officially, General Grant and Mr. Rath have written letters and have talked with leaders of the opposition. There have been a series of actions taken to forestall immediate execution of the razing plans. A proposed zoning change, which will limit the height of buildings bordering small public areas, will have a public hearing late in April.

In Print. Nina Fletcher Little, one of the "specialists" to whom reference was made on the first page of this report, has written a monologue entitled Some Old Brookline House Built...before 1825 and Still Standing in 1948. The book includes illustrations and architectural and biographical notes; it is published by the Brookline Historical Society (Massachusetts).

Mrs. Little has a brief, excellent, practical article in the October 1949 issue of "Old-Time New England, the bulletin of The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities" entitled "Finding the Records of an Old House," it will help those who want to be reassured that they have utilized every source of information.

Stanley F. Horn is an editor, publisher, and historian. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Hermitage, the Andrew Jackson Home near Nashville. The natural result is a book: The Hermitage: Home of Old Hickory. (Greenberg: Publisher, $3.75). Those who wish to know something about Jackson's life, his home and its subsequent preservation, will find this a compact and interesting presentation.

Late last year there appeared a book that may still interest those who remember the late great director of the New York Historical Society. Lillian B. Wall has written and the Society has published, Entre Nous: An Intimate Portrait of Alexander J. Wall. Mr. Wall realized the role of preservation in making history come to life. His wife tells the story of his life well.

> The Maryland Park and Planning Commission has purchased the Calvert Mansion at Riverdale, a short distance from the District of Columbia. The Commission's headquarters have been installed on the upper floors. The building, which was built at the end of the 18th century, is said to have been designed by William Thornton, the architect of the original Capitol.

The Dam Threat Is Still Urgent. The National Council has tried consistently to point out the irremediable harm that is being done by the construction of dams. In so doing, it has not meant to disapprove all such technological advances; it has insisted that more attention should be paid to consequences, cultural as well as social. There is something so final about the flooding out of hundreds of square miles!

This point has been made again by those interested in the land to be inundated when the McNary Dam in Washington is completed. Among sites that will go is Fort Walla Walla, built in 1818; only $700 have been available for archeological work on the old fort. There are more than a hundred other sites in the basin area: Indian villages, burial places, pictographs, stone structures, and other evidences of early cultures. Unless funds are made available to the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution for this work, it will go undone, for it is beyond the means of the State colleges.

After May 15, our new address will be:

THE OCTAGON HOUSE

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.